

Clark County Coroner  
1704 Pinto Lane  
Las Vegas, NV 89106  
(702) 455-3210



## AUTOPSY REPORT

Case Number: [REDACTED]

October 2, 2017

### AUTOPSY REPORT

#### PATHOLOGICAL EXAMINATION ON THE BODY OF



#### PATHOLOGIC DIAGNOSES

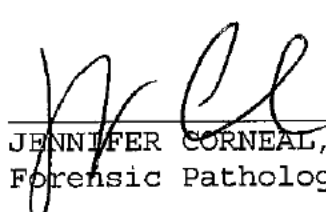
- I. Gunshot wound of back.
- II. Hepatomegaly with hepatic steatosis.

#### OPINION

Based on the autopsy findings and the circumstances surrounding the death, as currently understood, the cause of death is **gunshot wound of back**, and the manner of death is **Homicide**.

CAUSE OF DEATH: This [REDACTED]-year-old [REDACTED] female, [REDACTED], died of a gunshot wound of the back.

MANNER OF DEATH: HOMICIDE.

  
JENNIFER CORNEAL, M.D.  
Forensic Pathologist

Date signed: 12/20/17

JC/amu/ag

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### POSTMORTEM EXAMINATION ON THE BODY OF

[REDACTED]

**Date of death:** October 2, 2017 at 0545 hours

**Date of autopsy:** October 2, 2017 at 2215 hours

**IDENTIFICATION:** The body is identified by a tag on the right great toe bearing the decedent's name and case number.

**WITNESSES:** Assisting is Forensic Technician Suzanne. There are no outside observers.

**CLOTHING:** The body is unclad when initially viewed. A pair of blue jeans, a beige bra and a multicolored shirt accompany the body.

**EVIDENCE OF MEDICAL THERAPY:** None.

### EXTERNAL EXAMINATION

*Injuries are described in a separate section below.*

**GENERAL:** The body is that of a normally developed, obese, (BMI = 35.2 kg/m<sup>2</sup>) [REDACTED] female appearing consistent with the listed age of [REDACTED] years. The length is 67 inches, and the weight is 225 pounds as received. The body is well preserved, cold, and has not been embalmed. Rigidity is fully developed in the jaw and extremities. Lividity is pale pink-purple, non-blanching, and in a posterior distribution.

**HEAD:** The scalp is covered with blond and brown hair measuring up to 8 inches on the top of the head. The ears are normally formed and without drainage. The earlobes are pierced. The irides are blue, the corneas are clear, and the bulbar and palpebral conjunctivae free of petechiae. The sclerae are white. The nose is intact, and the nares are clean and unobstructed. The lips are normally formed. The teeth are natural and in good condition.

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## AUTOPSY REPORT

Case Number: [REDACTED]

PAGE TWO

NECK: The neck is symmetrical and without injury.

CHEST AND ABDOMEN: The chest is normally formed, symmetrical, and without palpable masses. The breasts are symmetrical, and without palpable masses. The abdomen is protuberant and soft. No masses are palpable.

EXTERNAL GENITALIA: The atraumatic external genitalia are those of an adult female.

BACK: The back is straight and symmetrical. The anus is atraumatic.

ARMS: The arms are normally formed. No needle punctures, track marks, or ventral wrist scars are noted. The fingernails are cut short and clean and do not extend beyond the fingertips.

LEGS: The legs are normally formed and have no edema, amputations, or deformity. The toenails are short, trim, and painted red.

BODY MARKINGS (SCARS AND TATTOOS):

Scars: None identified.

Tattoos:

1. A tattoo of a butterfly on the right lower abdomen.

### INJURIES, EXTERNAL AND INTERNAL

*There is a penetrating gunshot wound of the back. Directions are stated with reference to standard anatomic positions.*

PENETRATING GUNSHOT WOUND OF BACK:

ENTRANCE: There is an entrance gunshot wound on the right upper back. It is centered 9-1/2 inches below the top of the head and 9-1/2 inches right of midline. It is a 3/16 x 1/16 inch defect with a 1/16 inch rim of abrasion. There is no soot or stippling on the adjacent skin.

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Case Number: [REDACTED]

PAGE THREE

PATH: The projectile enters the back, perforates the posterior right third intercostal space, fracturing the right 3<sup>rd</sup> rib posteriorly, perforating the upper and middle lobes of the right lung, the aorta, the interventricular septum and the left ventricle and lodges in the pericardial sac. There is associated right hemothorax (1500 mL) and hemopericardium (50 mL).

PROJECTILE/SITE OF LODGEMENT: A deformed gray metallic projectile is recovered from the pericardial sac. A fragment of jacket is recovered from the right ventricle inside the heart.

### INTERNAL EXAMINATION

BODY CAVITIES: The abdominal fat layer measures up to 5.7 cm in thickness. There is a right hemothorax and a hemopericardium. The serosal surfaces are smooth, glistening, and without adhesions. The organs are normally located. The diaphragm is intact.

CARDIOVASCULAR SYSTEM: See Injuries, External and Internal. The heart weighs 410 grams and is not enlarged. It has a normal shape with a smooth, glistening epicardium with focal hemorrhage in the lateral left ventricle wall. The coronary arteries have a normal origin and distribution with right dominance. The coronary arteries have less than 20% yellow, atherosclerotic stenosis.

The myocardium is red-brown and firm with focal hemorrhage. The ventricles are not dilated or hypertrophied. The right ventricle, left ventricle, and interventricular septum measure 0.3 cm, 1.2 cm, and 1.2 cm, respectively.

The endocardium is mostly intact with a defect in the interventricular septum and the left ventricle near the apex. The cardiac valve leaflets are of normal number, pliable, intact, and free of vegetations. The atrial and ventricular septa are free of natural defects.

The aorta follows its usual course and has minimal atherosclerotic changes. There is a defect in the ascending aorta. The vena

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## AUTOPSY REPORT

Case Number: [REDACTED]

PAGE FOUR

cavae and pulmonary arteries are without thrombus or embolus.

RESPIRATORY SYSTEM: See Injuries, External and Internal. The right and left lungs weigh 250 and 350 grams, respectively, and have the usual lobation. The pleura are smooth and glistening; the lungs have no anthracotic pigment. The right lung is atelectatic and the left lung is expanded and crepitant. The parenchyma is dark red and exudes moderate amounts of fluid. There is focal hemorrhage surrounding the defects in the right lung. The lungs have no consolidation, infarct, tumor, gross fibrosis, or enlargement of airspaces. The bronchi contain bloody fluid and have tan-pink mucosa.

HEPATOBIILIARY SYSTEM: The liver weighs 2190 grams. The intact capsule is smooth and glistening. The parenchyma is tan-yellow and uniform without mass, hemorrhage, yellow discoloration, or palpable fibrosis.

The gallbladder contains less than 1 ml of bile and no stones. Its mucosa is uniform and the wall is not thickened.

The pancreas has a normal size, shape, and lobulated structure. The parenchyma is pink-tan, soft, and uniform.

HEMOLYMPHATIC SYSTEM: The spleen weighs 170 grams. The capsule is smooth and intact. The parenchyma is maroon, firm, and uniform.

There is no enlargement of the lymph nodes in the neck, chest, or abdomen.

ENDOCRINE SYSTEM: The thyroid gland is not enlarged, and the lobes are symmetrical. The parenchyma is uniform, firm, and red-brown.

The adrenal glands have the usual size and shape. The cortices are thin, uniform, and yellow and there is no hemorrhage or tumor.

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## AUTOPSY REPORT

Case Number: [REDACTED]

PAGE FIVE

GASTROINTESTINAL SYSTEM: The esophagus and gastroesophageal junction are unremarkable. The stomach contains approximately 35 ml of food material without visible pills or pill residue. The gastric and duodenal mucosae are intact and unremarkable. The small and large intestines and appendix are unremarkable to inspection and palpation.

GENITOURINARY SYSTEM: The right and left kidneys weigh 140 grams, each, and have a normal shape and position. The cortical surfaces are smooth. The kidneys have the usual corticomedullary structure without tumors or cysts. The pelves and ureters are not dilated or thickened. The bladder contains no urine. The mucosa is intact, and the bladder wall is not hypertrophied.

The uterus is slightly enlarged. The tubes and ovaries are of expected size and have smooth serosal surfaces. The cervix is patent with a slit-like os. There is irregularity of the cervical mucosa. The myometrium is uniform and the endometrium is unremarkable. The sectioned ovaries are mostly unremarkable with smooth-walled cysts identified. The vagina is unremarkable.

NECK: The tongue, strap muscles, and other anterior neck soft tissues have no hemorrhage. The hyoid bone and the cartilaginous structures of the larynx and trachea are normally formed and without fracture. The airway is unobstructed, lined by smooth, pink-tan mucosa, and contains no foreign material. The cervical vertebrae have no displacement, hypermobility, or crepitus.

MUSCULOSKELETAL SYSTEM: The musculoskeletal system is well developed and free of deformity. There are no fractures of the clavicles, sternum, vertebrae, or pelvis. The ribs are not brittle. The skeletal muscle is dark red and firm.

HEAD: The scalp is free of hemorrhage. The calvarium and base of the skull are normally configured and have no fractures. The dura is intact, and there is no epidural or subdural hemorrhage.

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## AUTOPSY REPORT

Case Number: [REDACTED]

PAGE SIX

CENTRAL NERVOUS SYSTEM: The unfixed brain weighs 1300 grams. The leptomeninges are glistening and transparent without underlying hemorrhage, exudate, or cortical contusions. The hemispheres are symmetrical and have a normal gyral pattern. There is no flattening of the gyri, narrowing of the sulci, midline shift, or evidence of herniation. The arteries at the base of brain have no atherosclerotic changes or aneurysms.

Sections through the cerebral hemispheres have a uniform, intact cortical ribbon and uniform white matter. The basal ganglia, thalami, hippocampi and other internal structures are symmetrical and without focal change. The ventricles are not enlarged, and the linings are smooth and glistening. Sections of the brainstem and cerebellum show an intact structure without focal lesions.

### SPECIMENS RETAINED

TOXICOLOGY: Samples of central and peripheral blood, vitreous humor and liver are retained for toxicology. Toxicological testing detected no alcohol or common drugs of abuse.

HISTOLOGY: Representative sections of organs and tissues are retained.

PHOTOGRAPHS: Digital identification photographs, overall external photographs, and photographs of injuries and projectile are taken.

RADIOGRAPHS: Full body radiographs are taken and show the fractured rib and a projectile in the left chest.